



CAROL WERNER  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY STUDY INSTITUTE  
122 C STREET, N.W., SUITE 630 ■ WASHINGTON, D.C., 20001 ■ 202-628-1400 ■ [www.eesi.org](http://www.eesi.org)

# Climate Change Fact Sheet

Contact:

Fredric Beck (202) 662-1892, [fbeck@eesi.org](mailto:fbeck@eesi.org)

Release: April 20, 2006

## Recent Polling on Public Perceptions of Climate Change April 2005-2006

### Gallup

<http://poll.gallup.com/content/default.aspx?ci=22291> (subscription)

April 7, 2006 Sample: 1000 adults nationwide

- **58% believe climate change as a result of global warming has already begun**
- 58% believe that increases in Earth's temperature over the last century are due more to human activities than natural changes
- 62% of Americans (77% of Democrats and 45% of Republicans) say they worry about the greenhouse effect a "great deal" or a "fair amount," as compared to 51% in 2004
- The global warming issue is still ranked behind pollution of drinking water, contamination of soil, air pollution, damage to the ozone layer, and loss of tropical rain forests, in terms of the percentage who say they "worry a great deal" about those issues.
- 74% say they understand global warming "very well" or "fairly well"
- 38% think the seriousness of global warming is underestimated, and 30% think it is exaggerated in news reports

### Time Magazine/ABC News/Stanford University

<http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1176967,00.html>

March 26, 2006 Sample: 1002 adults nationwide

- **85% say global warming is probably happening**
- 88% think global warming threatens future generations
- 49% say the issue of global warming is "extremely important" to them personally, up from 31% in 1998
- 68% think the government should do more to address global warming
- 62% think much can be done to curb global warming
- 87% support tax breaks to develop water, wind, and solar power

### Civil Society Institute/40MPG.org

<http://www.civilsocietyinstitute.org/>

March 15, 2006 Sample: 1029 adults nationwide

- **76 % of Americans – including 63% of conservatives – think the Federal government is "not doing enough to address global warming and develop alternative energy sources in order to reduce our dependence on foreign oil."**
- 83% support "more leadership from the Federal government to reduce the pollution linked to global warming, encourage new approaches to promoting conservation and spark the development of renewal or alternative energy sources."
- 83% would like to see more attention paid to global warming during the 2006 Congressional and 2008 Presidential elections
- 71% think it is "patriotic to drive a more fuel-efficient vehicle"

### Ayres McHenry

<http://www.ayresmchenry.com/docs/EDToplines.pdf>

March 2, 2006 Sample: 1200 registered voters nationwide

- **71% say global warming is happening**
- 53% attribute climate change to human activity
- 70% believe it is possible to reduce the effects of global warming
- Respondents that say they are willing to take these steps to save energy: 95% would caulk windows and doors; 90% would turn the thermostat down two degrees in winter and up 2 degrees in summer; 87% would choose energy efficient appliances; 82% would choose energy efficient light bulbs; 70% would drive less and carpool, walk, bike or take public transit instead

### NY Times/CBS

<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/02/28/national/28gas.html?ex=1298782800&en=10e4847f570b7cd6&ei=5088&partner=rssnyt&emc=rss>

February 28, 2006 Sample: 1018 adults nationwide

- **59% would favor an increase in the federal gasoline tax if the result is less gasoline consumption and less global warming**
- 55% would support such an increase if it reduces dependence on foreign oil

### FOX News/Opinion Dynamics Corp.

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,175070,00.html>

November 9, 2005 Sample: 900 registered voters nationwide

- **77% of Americans believe global warming is happening** (83% of Democrats and 66% of Republicans)
- 46% believe it is caused by human behavior; 17% believe it is caused by normal climate patterns; 30% believe it is caused by both
- 60% describe global warming as either a “crisis” or “a major problem”
- 80% say they are likely to buy more energy-efficient appliances to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- 72% favor tax incentives to businesses that develop ways to improve the environment

### Oak Ridge Center for Advanced Studies/Harris Interactive

<http://orcas.oraui.org/programs/survey.htm>

September 26, 2005 Sample: 1004 adults nationwide

- **61% believe they will see the effects of global warming in their lifetime**
- 31% believe the quality of information we have on global warming is of excellent or good quality; 33% believe it is of fair quality; 28% believe it is of poor or terrible quality
- 38% believe the information we have about global climate change is clear enough for local leaders to act with certainty

### Public Policy Institute of California

<http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=623>

July 21, 2005 Sample: 2502 adults in California

- **86% of Californian adults believe that global warming will affect current or future generations**
- 62% identify human activities as the primary cause of global warming
- 54% believe the state government should address the issue of global warming
- 77% favor a state law requiring automakers to further reduce emissions of greenhouse gases from new cars in California

### Program on International Policy Attitudes

<http://www.worldpublicopinion.org/pipa/articles/btenvironmentra/79.php?nid=&id=&pnt=79&lb=bte>

July 5, 2005 Sample: 821 adults nationwide

- **52% of Americans say there is a consensus among a great majority of scientists that global warming exists and could do significant damage** (41% of Republicans and 62% of Democrats), compared to 43% in 2004 and 28% in 1994
- 94% say the US should limit greenhouse gases at least as much as other developed countries
- 73% say the US should participate in the Kyoto agreement to reduce global warming
- 56% say if scientific consensus exists on global warming, the US should reduce greenhouse gas emissions even at significant costs
- 83% favor legislation requiring large companies to reduce greenhouse gases to 2000 levels by 2010 and 1990 levels by 2020 (McCain-Lieberman Bill targets)
- 68% favor the above even assuming a \$15 monthly costs for the average household

### ABC News/Washington Post

<http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/PollVault/story?id=850438>

June 15, 2005 Sample: 1002 adults nationwide

- **59% are convinced global warming is underway**
- 33% think it will affect their generation; 79% think it will affect future generations
- 38% favor immediate government action (47% of Democrats, 24% of Republicans, and 44% of Independents)
- 68% of Democrats, 54% of Republicans, and 64% of Independents believe human activity is a significant cause of global warming

### Gallup

<http://poll.gallup.com/content/default.aspx?CI=15961> (subscription)

April 21, 2005 Sample: 1001 adults nationwide

- **54% believe effects of global warming have begun**, compared to 51% in 2004 and 2003, 53% in 2002, 54% in 2001, 48% in 1997
- 63% believe environment is getting worse, compared to 58% in 2004, 57% in 2003, 54% in 2002, and 57% in 2001

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The Environmental and Energy Study Institute is a non-profit organization established in 1984 by a bipartisan, bicameral group of members of Congress to provide timely information on energy and environmental policy issues to policymakers and stakeholders and develop innovative policy solutions that set us on a cleaner, more secure and sustainable energy path.